Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, At any given time in South Dakota, there are children in foster care awaiting a loving and caring adoptive home. Many have never felt the warmth and joy that comes from a family; and,

Whereas, The lives of these children can be brightened by just one person and not only will this enrich the life of a child, but the adoptive parent's as well; and,

Whereas, By adopting a child, you not only help a child grow up in a permanent and loving environment, you share in the dream of a bright, positive future; and,

Whereas, The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) and private adoption agencies throughout the state work hard to find permanent families for children. DSS serves the foster care population while the private adoption agencies work with infant and private adoptions; and,

Whereas, Since July 2007, 188 children in South Dakota were adopted from DSS and even more children were adopted through independent and private agencies; and,

Whereas, There continues to be a need for South Dakota families to step forward and become foster or adoptive parents. These families include relatives of the child, foster families, and other South Dakota citizens:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 2008 as

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota and I encourage citizens, community agencies, religious and tribal organizations, businesses, and others to help celebrate and bring awareness to adoption; to honor the families who grow through adoption, and to focus our attention on those children who still await a safe and caring home.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State